

<p>1 THE UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION 2 3 In the Matter of:) 4) 5 CATALYST HEDGED FUTURES) File No. C-08400-A 6 STRATEGY FUND) 7 8 SUBJECT: Audio Recording with Ed Walsak, Kimberly Rios 9 and Mike Zupal present dated June 7, 2016 10 PAGES: 1 through 43 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 Diversified Reporting Services, Inc. 25 (202) 467-9200</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 1</p> <p>1 Futures and Hedge Commodities funds. Additionally, Ed 2 has been portfolio manager of the Hedge Futures 3 predecessor fund, Harbor Assets, since its inception in 4 2005 until its conversion to an Act '40 mutual fund in 5 September of 2013. Mr. Walsak has a bachelor's degree in 6 physics and economics and Middlebury College and a master 7 of business administration from Harvard University's 8 Graduate School of Business.</p> <p>9 Kimberly Rios, portfolio manager on the funds, 10 received her bachelor degree in finance and economics 11 from the University of Arizona, additionally received her 12 CFA designation in 2001. And also, Kimberly holds a 13 Chartered Financial Analyst CMT designation through the 14 Market Technicians Association, which she got in 2014.</p> <p>15 And just as a reminder, folks, at any time you 16 could hit star then 5 if you do have a question. Please 17 hit star then 5. That will put you in the queue.</p> <p>18 Everyone will be on mute until the Q&A period at which 19 time you'll hear your line become unmuted. I will 20 announce you by your area code and prefix of your phone 21 number. You'll hear your line come unmuted, and you 22 could ask Ed or Kimberly a question.</p> <p>23 So at this time, I will turn the call over to 24 Ed and Kimberly. Guys, all yours.</p> <p>25 MR. WALSAK: Thanks, Mike. And good morning,</p>
<p>1 P R O C E E D I N G S 2 MR. ZUPAL: Welcome everyone, and thank you for 3 attending our bimonthly Catalyst Funds portfolio managers 4 open house conference call. Before we begin I'd like to 5 remind everyone today's call may include forward-looking 6 statements. These statements represent the firm's belief 7 regarding future events that by their nature are 8 uncertain and outside of the firm's control.</p> <p>9 The firm's actual results and financial 10 condition may differ possibly materially from what is 11 indicated in those forward-looking statements. Please 12 take a moment to review fund's fact sheet and prospectus 13 before investing. These documents include some important 14 risk considerations that every investor should carefully 15 consider such as investment objectives, risks, charges 16 and expenses. This and other information can be obtained 17 by calling our internal sales staff at (646) 827-2761, on 18 our website www.catalystmutualfunds.com or reaching out 19 to your regional wholesaling representative.</p> <p>20 On the call today we have Ed Walsak (phonetic) 21 and Kimberly Rios (phonetic), who are the managers on the 22 Catalyst Hedge Futures, HFXAX, and Catalyst Hedge 23 Commodities, CFHAX funds. Ed Walsak is a senior 24 portfolio manager here at Catalyst Funds and is 25 responsible for the day-to-day management of the Hedge</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 good afternoon to everyone on the call. Again, 2 appreciate your interest and confidence in the fund. I'm 3 going to give you an update and try, as I usually do, to 4 be as brief as possible to allow for questions at the 5 end. I'll give you an update on the S&P fund. Kimberly 6 will talk through the commodity fund, and then we'll take 7 your questions.</p> <p>8 So for those of you who have been on prior 9 calls relative to the S&P fund, more of the same, and 10 what that means is we continue to see a choppy, somewhat 11 upward moving currently market. But more importantly for 12 us -- since we don't really trade direction more 13 importantly for us we see those typical volatility 14 conditions where we see -- as I mentioned, on strategy 15 calls, we look at the term structure of volatility.</p> <p>16 We look at what levels of volatility are 17 assumed or built into options at different times 18 expiration, usually at monthly intervals, 30, 60, 90, 19 120, 150 days, and that's -- and on that curve, 120, 150 20 days is kind of the maximum places that we trade options.</p> <p>21 So at any rate, the volatility environment is 22 again that typical normal technically called a contango 23 situation, and that's where the VIX is very inexpensive. 24 Whenever you see a VIX, the VIX these days is in the 13- 25 ish neighborhood, 14 on some days. When you see a VIX</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 that low, you can almost without worrying too much about 2 what that curve looked like -- looks like you can be 3 pretty confident that it's in contango, meaning the VIX 4 is cheap.</p> <p>5 So what we're doing is we're looking for more 6 volatility Deluxe rate first and foremost when the VIX is 7 cheap and the curve is in contango, meaning 120 days 8 instead of seeing a 13 and a half volatility like the 9 VIX, 120 days out we might see 16 or 17 volatility. So 10 that's better for what we do, and that's, essentially, 11 where we place our trades. We're placing trades 12 currently in September expiration, and we're doing that 13 both in traditional options expiration, which is the 14 third Friday of the month in September, and also end of 15 month.</p> <p>16 We found over time that we get good liquidity 17 in end-of-month options, which are no different other 18 than they expire on the last business day of the month 19 instead of the third Friday. So that gives us some 20 additional places to trade, and in both of those 21 circumstances we're getting volatility is actually up in 22 the 17-ish neighborhood. So we like that.</p> <p>23 But generally speaking, from a strategy 24 standpoint, that's all we're doing. We're doing upside 25 price caps. We're using call spreads because when we</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 corresponding significant downside move. "Significant" 2 means to really move the needle we would probably need to 3 see about a 10 percent decline, and then we would 4 actually still start to make a little bit of money on 5 those put options.</p> <p>6 What would be more likely the case is during 7 that 10 percent decline you would see that contango 8 volatility curve. The VIX would spike. The curve would 9 flatten. We'd start to put on positions, and once we 10 were down 10 percent we'd probably be in pretty good 11 shape to profit from additional decline.</p> <p>12 And that's pretty typical for our strategy.</p> <p>13 That's kind of where we are today. If we did nothing and 14 you saw a 10 percent decline, you might see 50 basis 15 points upside in the fund just to give you a perspective. 16 Those are real approximate numbers, but I want to give 17 you a perspective that you wouldn't see a major impact 18 from an increase in volatility. At this stage that would 19 be a scenario where we'd be putting on positions in 20 hopes, so to speak, or where they would profit should 21 volatility continue.</p> <p>22 So right now we are very much fully invested in 23 upside price capture through our call option structures. 24 We've already taken profits off the table in the third 25 week June expiration. That's an expiration that's a week</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 have these kind of contango volatility conditions that's 2 what our strategy tells us to do. I've mentioned in past 3 calls that we have maintained and attempted as much as 4 possible to maintain some of our volatility exposure to 5 the downside that we are able to put on really way back 6 into February when market conditions pointed us in that 7 direction.</p> <p>8 As I mentioned, and it continues to be the 9 case, we have less and less ability to do that. The 10 volatility conditions are not favorable to put on those 11 trades, so what we do is we use existing positions to 12 kind of hedge ourselves knowing that we're putting on 13 some trades, you know, less than optimal scenario with 14 the real intention of simply extending some of that put 15 exposure out as far as we can.</p> <p>16 Well, there's a very limited -- we have a 17 limited capability to do that under the rules of our 18 strategy in these volatility conditions, so every time I 19 speak to you, every time a week goes by or a month goes 20 by those positions, essentially, start to fade away and 21 roll off.</p> <p>22 And what that means is we do have some -- still 23 have some volatility positions below the market, but, as 24 I've said in past calls, it would take a fairly 25 significant volatility spike and, obviously,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 from Friday. In hindsight, we left a little money on the 2 table, but as we get near to expiration we have some 3 guidelines in our strategy that says let's take something 4 off the table because as you get to expiration you have 5 that situation where if you have some profits in long 6 call option positions and the market reverses even for a 7 week or so, then those profits will evaluate -- 8 evaporate. Sorry.</p> <p>9 So we chose to take some money off the table in 10 June. However, we still have positions on in end of June 11 expiration so roughly four weeks from today, and those 12 positions will be profitable S&P 2110 to 2106. So good 13 news is we're in that range now, and should the market 14 continue to kind of grind higher, we'll do fairly nicely 15 in that end of June expiration.</p> <p>16 A couple of minor pieces of bad news. At end 17 of June expiration based on market conditions is one 18 where we're not a heavy concentration of positions there. 19 We could -- we could make some money, but it's not as 20 full a load of positions as we do in other expiration 21 months. But still, you know, we're talking 150, 200 22 basis points potentially, which is really what we target 23 in a given expiration. This one's a little bit light but 24 still gives some opportunity.</p> <p>25 The ideal situation -- for those of you that</p>

<p>1 love to watch this stuff, the ideal situation would be 2 about 2135, 2140 at the end of the month of June in the 3 S&P. The other thing you'll see happening, however, is 4 that if we do hit 2140 or even 2150 that would be great 5 for our end of June position. That's a little too far, a 6 little too fast for some of our July, August, September 7 positions. They're in place a little bit higher, but 8 they have a little bit longer to go.</p> <p>9 So some of the appreciation in our June 10 positions will be offset by a temporary decline in the 11 value of the other positions based on the market going a 12 little too far a little too fast. But that's -- that's 13 the nature of our strategy. That's something we 14 encounter all the time, so we happily put the profits 15 from June in the bank and then manage the subsequent 16 positions going forward.</p> <p>17 So I think it gives you a little bit of a 18 flavor, and I can expand on any of the positioning that 19 I've just talked about in the Q&A session. So let me 20 stop there and turn the floor over to Kimberly to talk 21 about the commodity fund.</p> <p>22 MS. RIOS: Thank you very much, Ed. I would 23 like to add where we are year-to-date. The S&P Fund is 24 up about 4 and a quarter percent, and the hedge commodity 25 is up just under 8 percent year-to-date. As we were</p>	<p>Page 9</p> <p>1 right now. We would like oil to hang out here for about 2 another week. Oil for June expires on the 16th. About 3 \$50 is our ideal point, but our profit range right now 4 that we're targeting is between 47 and 52 for next week. 5 And then into July our peak is at 55, but we have a very 6 large opportunity anything above the market from here on 7 out. In all three markets, we have positions all the way 8 out until September.</p> <p>9 For oil, we still have nothing below the 10 market. None of our parameters are telling us that we 11 should be trading there. Corn, we have some positions 12 below the market, but most of our positions are above the 13 market. And gold we have both above and below the 14 market. So that's an update for the commodity fund. 15 I'll send it back to you, Ed.</p> <p>16 MR. WALSAK: Sure. And Mike, if you can take 17 over, I think we're ready to take some questions on 18 either or both of the funds.</p> <p>19 MR. ZUPAL: Sure. Thanks, guys. Once again, 20 folks, if you do have a question, please hit star then 5 21 to place yourself in the queue. Ed and Kimberly, we 22 actually do have a few questions that were emailed in 23 advance here. I'll start off with the easiest one here.</p> <p>24 This is a question from UBS team out in 25 Spokane. They said, "Ed, about a year ago you had</p>
<p>Page 10</p> <p>1 discussing, the VIX right now is trading under 14 for the 2 S&P, but for the gold, oil and corn we want the higher 3 volatility. Right now the gold volatility is about 18. 4 Oil is around 35. Now, that's down from about 42 from a 5 month ago. And then corn had a nice vol spike this 6 weeks. It's in the high 20s, low 30s. That has allowed 7 us to add some more positions above the market.</p> <p>8 So we'll start with corn. Right now corn for 9 June -- and June's going to expire here just on the 24th. 10 So the next couple weeks we look like it to be under 430. 11 And then in July, we flip that. We would like it to be 12 above 430. If something were to happen and the market 13 goes down, we do have a profit range in July for 370 to 14 330 below.</p> <p>15 For corn, though, corn works -- it's the same 16 thing with too far, too fast. That really is very true 17 in corn. If the market goes too far in corn, we can get 18 hurt until it kind of stabilizes out or gives us a little 19 bit more time for those options to do their magic.</p> <p>20 For gold, in June and July, we have downside 21 peaks. If the market were to go down, like, 4 to 5 22 percent, 4 to 5 percent, we have some peaks down in that 23 range, about 1175. And then for the upside in July, 24 we're -- we have a profit range all the way up to 1355.</p> <p>25 And then for oil we are in a very sweet spot</p>	<p>Page 12</p> <p>1 mentioned there were a couple books you would recommend 2 for people wanting to learn a little more technical 3 information about the type of trading you do. If you 4 could just give the names, authors of those books that 5 would be much appreciated."</p> <p>6 MR. WALSAK: Sure. We kind of update the 7 things that we look at. And I don't want to give people 8 books, so I looked at back in 1988 when I was learning 9 about options. So we can send you a list. The most 10 current information about options trading and some of the 11 spreads we use I found is at the options industry 12 website, which is oig.org, and it's an industry website 13 be designed not to sell you something or to -- it's not a 14 broker site that's looking for you to open an account and 15 obtain some commission. It truly is an industry site 16 that is interested in having people learn more about 17 options and ultimately trade options. But they have some 18 great educational tools on that site.</p> <p>19 My son is an avid learner of options, being 24 20 years old, and that's the site I recommended to him to go 21 and begin to build his knowledge base. So I can put that 22 recommendation behind oig.org. Lots of good stuff there. 23 And we can send you some texts for those folks who -- 24 information who want to look at an e-book or an actual 25 printed copy as well.</p>

<p>1 MR. ZUPAL: Okay. Great. Appreciate that.</p> <p>2 Yeah. I'll catch you offline if there was any specific 3 books that he thought you might have mentioned. He 4 wasn't -- he wasn't particular there.</p> <p>5 The next question I had emailed in was from a 6 team out in Denver. "The S&P fund was up significantly 7 on Friday, this past Friday. That was attributed -- what 8 was that attributed to, and can you help us understand 9 the funds impressive rally since the drawdown in April?"</p> <p>10 MR. WALSAK: Sure. Those are some great 11 questions and probably some things I omitted from my 12 overview, so excellent questions because those are 13 important things to describe. So the relatively large 14 move on Friday -- they're actually both related on 15 different time frames, so let me actually take the longer 16 time frame, meaning move off of the drawdown in April.</p> <p>17 So the drawdown in April was, basically, caused 18 by again a move too far too fast as we came off those 19 February lows, but, again, too far too fast is not a bad 20 thing because of the time element in options, meaning you 21 see a drawdown like that, and you think, wow, the 22 market's got to reverse itself to recover, or, you know, 23 the positions are bad; you got to exit them and take the 24 losses and start over. And that's not really the case. 25 In fact, that's never the case in what we do.</p>	<p>Page 13</p> <p>1 However, they were still -- in other words, so 2 our profit range, for example, on some of those positions 3 were 2100 to 2150. The market got to 2100 just a little 4 too quick. That caused those positions to go negative, 5 but still the market was still in a place where we like 6 those positions, 2100 to 2150, but our short options 7 appreciated faster than our long options. That happens 8 in these positions. So that caused a drawdown.</p> <p>9 Well, meanwhile, the market kind of chopped 10 around and stabilized, and you wake up on Friday and you 11 say wow, now we're at 2100, and the time is right. And 12 so the short options have started to lose some of their 13 value. The long options have retained their value 14 because they're close to the market -- that's the idea 15 behind the strategy -- and the fund recovered.</p> <p>16 So it was, basically, a case of the market 17 going where we wanted it to go, went there too quickly 18 causing a drawdown and then stabilized and remained where 19 we wanted to be, which caused these positions to not only 20 come back from the drawdown but also begin to make money 21 as they were intended when we put them on.</p> <p>22 So both those happened in terms of the fund's 23 performance coming out of this drawdown and also on 24 Friday. Friday is a little more localized but the same 25 kind of thing. We were a little bit past where we'd like</p>
<p>Page 14</p> <p>1 The risk management we use is almost -- almost 2 never forces us into actually taking a loss on a 3 position. In other words, if you're in an equity 4 portfolio and you buy a stock and you've got good risk 5 management, you've got at some point where you're going 6 to get out of that position. And when you get out of 7 that position, you buy a stock at 50. You say, look, my 8 uncle point is 45. I'm out at 45. You lost five bucks. 9 You've got to go find a way to make that \$5 back is sort 10 of the end of the story.</p> <p>11 In our case, we actually very rarely from a 12 risk standpoint have to exit a position because options 13 are hedging instruments. We simply hedge our risk, and 14 that allows us to stay in a trade until they do what we 15 want them to do. And if they don't do what we want them 16 to do, then typically it ends up in a break even type 17 scenario.</p> <p>18 So when you see a drawdown, it's normally -- 19 normally, we're still in those positions, and we still 20 have an opportunity for time and price to come together 21 and make us some money. So that's really what happened. 22 We went into a drawdown. We were very comfortable with 23 where we were positioned, but the market popped a little 24 too high, a little too far, which means the call ratio 25 spread that we use went negative.</p>	<p>Page 16</p> <p>1 to be in some of the positions. The market had a modest 2 decline on Friday, and that gave us a pretty nice move to 3 the upside because we moved from a little bit past our 4 sweet spot where we started to tip over, so to speak, and 5 started to lose money because the market was going higher 6 too far, and it came back right into the sweet spot of 7 these option positions, which caused a nice up move on 8 Friday.</p> <p>9 The other thing going on these days is we are 10 in the middle of positions that are near to expiration, 11 so you'll get some more volatility in the fund because we 12 got option positions not only that are nearer to 13 expiration when options get more volatile but also 14 because we're very -- we're in those profit ranges, 15 meaning the market is bouncing around the exact strike 16 prices of some of the options, and it also introduces 17 volatility.</p> <p>18 In other words, if I told you I had positions 19 on at 2100 to 2150 in June and the market were at 1950, 20 well, those options are going to be nearly worthless. 21 They're not going to react to the market. The funds are 22 going to be kind of sitting still. Those same positions 23 with the market right at 2100 that 2100 call option with 24 every move in the market is moving pretty significantly, 25 and so you'll see more activity in the fund.</p>

<p>1 But the same reasoning behind coming out of the 2 drawdown and really Friday's move is just the market 3 moving around in a place where we have our sweet spot. A 4 little bit beyond it the market holds still or moves back 5 into the sweet spot we make some money. If we're below 6 the sweet spot and the market moves up into it, we make 7 some money. So those are the types of dynamics that give 8 you those price moves.</p> <p>9 MR. ZUPAL: All right. Thanks very much for 10 that, Ed. I do have one more email question. I got a 11 couple folks in the queue. Just sit tight. And again, 12 if you do have a question, hit star then 5 and put 13 yourself in the queue. The last question revolves -- and 14 this is from Axateam (phonetic) in New York City, 15 surrounded around the stress testing and drawdown.</p> <p>16 And it goes as follows: What would be the, of 17 course, worst case black swan scenario for the fund? 18 What is the max drawdown you are shooting for given your 19 stress test, the risk parameters? And if you could speak 20 a little bit more to if you see a significant drawdown 21 when you're doing the stress test. If, like, for 22 example, there was a 10 percent drawdown or move up in 23 the market which caused the fund to fall out of your 4 to 24 6 percent drawdown parameters, how do you -- how do you 25 change the portfolio to mitigate that potential risk in</p>	<p>Page 17</p> <p>1 that's our metric. Our methodology is to look at 2 stresses on the portfolio. So we enter put trades when 3 volatility does certain things. We enter call trades 4 when volatility does certain things. We enter those 5 trades in different expiration months, different strikes. 6 We end up with a pretty complex portfolio of options 7 positions. They're all entered for many different 8 reasons at different times, but they all comprise a 9 fairly complex portfolio.</p> <p>10 So even if you're an options guy, if you look 11 at a portfolio statement, you have no chance whatsoever 12 of understanding how that portfolio will behave under 13 different market conditions unless you have fairly 14 sophisticated options modeling software, which, of 15 course, we do.</p> <p>16 So in that software, we have our portfolio 17 built, and we can then take stresses and say what if, and 18 we do lots of what ifs, and we do it graphically, meaning 19 instead of, sort of, throwing darts at the wall and 20 saying what if the S&P goes to 2150 next week, and we 21 figure that out, and then what if it goes to 1900 at the 22 end of the month, we do it graphically so we can see an 23 overview, meaning we look at a graph, and along the 24 bottom of that graph is the price of the S&P, and along 25 the vertical axis of the graph is the value of the</p>
<p>1 the fund?</p> <p>2 MR. WALSAK: Yeah. Those are all great 3 questions because, as I've mentioned before, risk 4 management, in my mind, is the key to outperforming as a 5 portfolio manager, as opposed to really chasing returns. 6 Managing risk is the secret, so I'm always very happy to 7 talk about that.</p> <p>8 So the first thing pure and simple is our 9 metrics are dialed in to limit our drawdown to 8 percent. 10 There's no guarantees in the world, especially in 11 markets, but that's our goal in everything we do is to 12 keep our drawdown to 8 percent. And since we established 13 these metrics they're -- basically, in their current form 14 were established in mid-2007.</p> <p>15 After we had a drawdown when the fund was in 16 its private form, we had a large drawdown that I felt was 17 unacceptable and so did a lot of work on risk management 18 at that point and what factors contributed to the 19 drawdown as a risk and came up with the structure and 20 stress testing that we use today the goal being to limit 21 a drawdown to 8 percent.</p> <p>22 Subsequent to that time we've been successful 23 in doing that. I think our largest is actually a shade 24 over 8 percent but less than 9, and that actually 25 occurred in 2014 in the fourth quarter. So that's our --</p>	<p>Page 18</p> <p>1 portfolio.</p> <p>2 So we can see a curve that says here's how the 3 portfolio is going to behave as the market moves back and 4 forth in price. Now, for us in options, we have two 5 other very important variables to consider. One is 6 volatility, and one is time, and neither of those are 7 factors if, for example, you were looking at an equity 8 portfolio, but for us it's very important.</p> <p>9 So as we look at that graphic we actually see 10 -- in a base case, we see five different lines on that 11 graph of what the portfolio value would look like, and 12 those five lines are five different points in time. So 13 we can now see what happens if the S&P goes up 25 points 14 tomorrow, if it's up 25 points at the end of the month, 15 if it's up 60 points three weeks from now.</p> <p>16 And again, without having to consider so much 17 data that you can't manage it we can see it graphically 18 in terms of the curves at different points in time. And 19 then, of course, enters the most important variable in 20 options pricing, and that is volatility. So it's 21 actually less important about where the price of the S&P 22 is than where volatility or the simplest form is the VIX.</p> <p>23 So fortunately, within our options software not 24 only does the software automatically anticipate based on 25 past behavior what will happen to volatility -- in other</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 words, the software knows that if the market's down 10 2 percent volatility is going to be higher, and it uses 3 historical data to project how much higher it will be, 4 and that's reflected in the portfolio value of these 5 options that we look at. And similarly to the upside we 6 know that volatility is likely to decline.</p> <p>7 So the model is very sophisticated. It lets us 8 look at portfolio values under a wide variety of 9 scenarios, and it does it continuously so we don't have 10 to pick random points. However, we do pick stress 11 points, and what we look at is a plus or minus side and 12 10 percent price excursion and also a minus 15 percent 13 excursion because we all know that downside moves can be 14 larger and more rapid, generally speaking, than upside 15 moves.</p> <p>16 So we look at all these stress points on those 17 curves across time for places in which the portfolio 18 values would cause us an unacceptable drawdown. And so 19 when we identified that there's an unacceptable risk 20 against our 8 percent parameter, we now use that same 21 modeling software to figure out what to do about it.</p> <p>22 Part of the question, I think, Mike, was, all 23 right, you find some risk. How do you mitigate that 24 risk? Well, the good news is, as I mentioned earlier in 25 the overview, is options contracts are risk management</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 level what we're doing. We're stressing the portfolio 2 using some pretty sophisticated modeling tools, and then, 3 when we find an out-of-bounds situation, so to speak, we 4 then jump right back in. We have a whole tool set of 5 risk management antidotes, so to speak, in the form of 6 option contracts and positions we already use to try and 7 make some money. So we jump in and we move our strikes 8 around, and we buy and sell different put options until 9 that risk goes away. And so that's what we do as kind of 10 a risk management overview.</p> <p>11 So we like to be in a position and, in fact, we 12 are -- I can't remember since 2007 that we were not in 13 this position. There is never a scenario where we wake 14 up one day, and there's a panic in the market, and we 15 scratch our heads and say, oh, my gosh, we've got to get 16 out of that position. We've got to do something.</p> <p>17 We try to be a couple of chess moves ahead of 18 that part of the portfolio management because we modeled 19 that scenario a week ago, and we already took steps so 20 that if the market is down 5 percent tomorrow that was 21 part of our model from a week ago, and either it didn't 22 cause us a problem in the model, so we're fine, or it did 23 cause us a problem, and it's already fixed before it 24 happens. That's the type of approach we like to take.</p> <p>25 MR. ZUPAL: All right. Great. That's a good</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 tools in essence. Many people use them to speculate, but 2 they are risk management tools, meaning put options were 3 invented to protect an equity -- an individual equity or 4 equity portfolio from decline. If you have a stock and 5 you're worried about it declining, you buy a put option.</p> <p>6 So if we see, for example, that a large market 7 decline -- this would be very rare, by the way, because 8 in our portfolio we try to avoid downside risk, but if, 9 for example, we saw that a 10 percent market decline 10 would throw the portfolio into a 12 percent drawdown, 11 well, the first thing we would look at is let's buy some 12 puts. And maybe we're short some puts somewhere that we 13 can repurchase and take off the table, or maybe we can 14 buy two puts and sell one put to help us pay for the ones 15 we bought, for example.</p> <p>16 So we then go in, and, in fact, most of the 17 time we're using the same structures that we already have 18 in place in the portfolio -- call ratios, spreads, put 19 diagonals -- but we can vary strikes and ratios. And so 20 we go in and we model what do we need to do to take this 21 risk off the table, and so we spend a lot of time on 22 that, actually, because, as I said, risk management 23 contributes more to return, I believe, than does the 24 actual return strategy itself.</p> <p>25 So that's really, you know, at the highest</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 clarification there. Just one quick follow-up. When you 2 reference that max drawdown of about 8 percent, what's, 3 like, your time frame on that? Is that just a max 4 drawdown of 8 period, or is that over the course of a 5 month or three months? Like, when --</p> <p>6 MR. WALSAK: Well, when we talk about a 7 drawdown -- yeah. When we talk about a drawdown, Mike, 8 the standard way of defining a drawdown is peak to valley 9 over any time frame; in other words, an 8 percent 10 drawdown from the highest level the fund has achieved 11 until the lowest it ever achieves before it sets a new 12 high. That's the standard industry definition of a 13 drawdown, and that's what we use.</p> <p>14 So it's not a situation where we're down 8 15 percent, start over, and we lose another 8 percent next 16 month. No. The goal is to never be more than 8 percent 17 in the hole from your highest ever value, and we've been 18 successful in that since 2007.</p> <p>19 MR. ZUPAL: Okay. Okay. I just -- I just 20 wanted to clarify on that point. I've got a question 21 here in the queue. And once again, folks, if you do have 22 a question, please hit star then 5. First question comes 23 from Area Code 631. 760 your line is now open.</p> <p>24 PARTICIPANT: Hi. It's Stephanie from 25 HighTower. Just a quick question. You were pretty</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 specific on target S&P prices on the upside. I know you 2 had mentioned 10 percent, what happened in a 10 percent 3 decline, but are there more strike prices that you could 4 be more specific on the downside? And then if you could 5 just quickly recap, you know, what would happen in a 6 sharp decline and what would happen in a prolonged, you 7 know, 5, 10, 15 percent decline over a number of months?</p> <p>8 MR. WALSAK: Sure. So for a long decline over 9 a number of months is our favorite scenario. We haven't 10 really seen it for a period of time, unfortunately. But 11 when I talk about strike prices to the upside, it's not 12 meaningful really on the downside. I'll talk a little 13 bit about where our positions are, but if you recall, our 14 strategy has two parts, and they're actually very 15 different.</p> <p>16 So the upside we care about price because 17 that's how we like to make money. We buy call options, 18 we sell call options, and we create ranges in which the 19 long options will make money, and the short options will 20 go away, essentially. And that allows us to capture some 21 upside in the market knowing that if the market never 22 gets there both options long and short will expire and 23 will break even.</p> <p>24 So we love to have the scenario where we can 25 make money if the market goes higher, and we break even</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 could it go down to? Well, if you look at history, when 2 markets go down, they're completely out of control. S&P 3 could be very easily at 1850 at the end of June, and that 4 would be a historical -- historically very normal sort 5 of, you know, sudden waterfall decline because that's 6 what happens.</p> <p>7 So the downside we want to take price out of 8 the equation, and we want to play volatility expansion. 9 We want to put option positions in place that will blow 10 up in value for us just because volatility went higher. 11 I don't care about price. In fact, the only thing I care 12 about the price of the downside is make sure that we 13 don't have price exposure to the downside.</p> <p>14 So we have positions, to give you an idea, 15 options positions long and short in the 1750 all the way 16 down to 1400 neighborhood in the S&P. And you scratch 17 your head and say, wow, not in my lifetime I would see 18 those numbers again, and that's exactly what we like. We 19 want price to be out of the equation. One way is to get 20 very far away from the market. The other way we use is 21 we have multiple put options in place relative -- long 22 put options relative to any short ones we have.</p> <p>23 So we hedge away our price exposure using put 24 options, and then we buy and sell put options that are 25 designed to increase in value when volatility spikes.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 if the market goes lower or sideways. And then our risk 2 is the fact that the market goes right through that range 3 we selected, and we're, essentially, then short the 4 market. That's where our risk is, and that's what we 5 have to manage to the upside.</p> <p>6 So that's where we can give profit ranges, 7 then. As I mentioned, end of June we're in a 2110, 2160 8 type scenario, and as we go out further we actually see 9 those ranges get higher. Give you an example. All the 10 way out in September, the end of September positions that 11 we're building now are really in the 2175 to 2225 12 neighborhood on the S&P as we get out that far. But 13 that's why ranges are important to the upside because we 14 are looking for upside price capture, but we don't take 15 downside risk to go after it.</p> <p>16 Now, we don't do anything like that below the 17 market because below the market -- when equity markets 18 decline, price is very unpredictable. I think it 19 probably seems reasonable to people when I talk about 20 those type of numbers out in September because you think 21 about it what if the -- if the S&P is at 2250 at the end 22 of this year, I think if you think about it for a minute 23 that would be a reasonable number. No big surprises 24 there.</p> <p>25 If I said to you the market's going down, where</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 And then, if volatility spikes for a period of time, we 2 can continue to do that, and we can make some money.</p> <p>3 So that's what we're doing below the market, 4 and so the price range and strikes are really unimportant 5 because our goal is to make price not matter underneath 6 the market, to not take downside risk and to only look 7 for volatility expansion to make money.</p> <p>8 MR. ZUPAL: Stephanie, does that answer your 9 question?</p> <p>10 PARTICIPANT: Yeah. We're good. Thank you.</p> <p>11 MR. ZUPAL: Okay. All right. Thanks very much 12 for the question. We always appreciate that, Stephanie. 13 We do have one more question in the queue. And once 14 again, folks, if you do have a question, star then 5. 15 I'm going to call last call for questions here.</p> <p>16 Next question comes from Area Code 646. 952, 17 your line is now open.</p> <p>18 PARTICIPANT: Hey, Ed. It's Mike Baldoff 19 (phonetic) here. Thanks for doing the call. I just had 20 a quick question for you based upon how much of the 21 returns you get is from premium collection? And if you 22 wouldn't mind using 2015 as an example, you know, what 23 percentage of the 8 percent that you were up last year 24 came from premium collection, and, you know, has that 25 changed over time?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 MR. WALSAK: Sure. The real short answer is we 2 don't use premium collection to earn a return, and that 3 has changed over time. Early in the fund's existence, 4 particularly in 2006 and 2007, premium collection was an 5 important part of the strategy. However, subsequent to 6 2007 and really subsequent to 2009, really beginning in 7 2009 premium collection disappeared entirely as a 8 standalone means of earning a return.</p> <p>9 Let me tell you what that means. A premium 10 collection means you go out and you sell an option for 11 two bucks, and you hope it goes to zero or to 10 cents or 12 20 cents, and you buy it back, but you're trying to make 13 money simply by selling something that's going to time 14 decay and expire, and so we don't really do that. I 15 shouldn't say really. We don't do that.</p> <p>16 What we do is we put on option spreads. We 17 want to take time to (inaudible) of the equation. In 18 other words, you buy a call, and your risk is that you 19 pay ten bucks for that call, and it expires, and you lost 20 ten bucks. So we buy a call for ten bucks. We sell two 21 other calls for \$5 apiece. We are in this trade for zero 22 money, and if everything expires, we break even. That's 23 what I keep talking about.</p> <p>24 So how do we make money on this trade? We're 25 not going to make money when everything expires. We</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 position of \$50 million.</p> <p>2 So the good news is that represents some of 3 that -- a big part of that profit coming out of our 4 drawdown and also a part of the move on Friday to make 5 money. The positions behaved like we wanted them to, and 6 all of a sudden we're sitting on \$50 million of option 7 (inaudible). So now we have the problem that if we do 8 nothing it's very likely that that 50 million will decay 9 with time, so now we want to go into the market.</p> <p>10 We use our same spreads, our ratio spreads or 11 our put spreads depending on conditions -- right now it's 12 ratio -- we go into the market, and we say now instead of 13 buying an option for ten and selling two or five, I'm 14 going to look to buy one for ten, sell two for six. Now 15 I can take \$2, put on my same spread, but take \$2 off the 16 table.</p> <p>17 So in that scenario, I have certainly collected 18 premium, but that's still not how I'm trying to make 19 money. I'm making money from the price range on that 20 spread, and the only reason I'm taking in premium is 21 because I now have time decay risk in the portfolio 22 because I've made money upon previous spread.</p> <p>23 So that's the story behind premium collection. 24 It's not really something we do to make money because it 25 oftentimes has an adverse risk/return profile. In my</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 break even. We make money when, like I said, we get into 2 a profit range on the call options, and we make some 3 money, or we buy an option, we sell an option, volatility 4 spikes, and the one we bought doubled in value. The one 5 that we sold goes up by 50 percent, and the net is we 6 make money.</p> <p>7 So we're making money by volatility. We're 8 making money by price. We're not making money by selling 9 options. We only sell options as a part of a spread to 10 take our time decay risk off the table. Again, time 11 decay risk means you buy an option. You pay money for 12 it. The clock ticks, and the option expires. You lose 13 money. We want to take that off the table. That's the 14 only reason we have a sole part of our options spread.</p> <p>15 Now, the other part, to get a little deeper, 16 when we do use premium collection -- in other words, 17 there are times when we go into the market, and we buy 18 and sell options, and the net of it is we take in money. 19 The only time we do that is when the portfolio has a net 20 long option exposure, and we're in that situation now.</p> <p>21 To give you an idea, in fact, on Friday, at the 22 end of the day on Friday, the options portfolio was long 23 \$50 million. So you look at this portfolio, and you add 24 up the value of the long options, and you add up the 25 value of the short options, and the net was a long</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 first example of premium collection, if you sell an 2 option for two bucks and hope it goes to zero, all you 3 can make is two bucks. You can never make more than two 4 bucks. Can that option go to 20 so you just lost \$18? 5 It sure can, and that's the negative risk/return profile 6 of prior premium collection. That's why we stay away 7 from it as a means of earning return. We use our 8 existing structures as a credit to pull a long option 9 premium off the table when that long option premium 10 builds up in our portfolio and presents an actual time 11 decay risk to us.</p> <p>12 PARTICIPANT: That was perfect. Thank you, Ed.</p> <p>13 MR. ZUPAL: All right. Thanks for that 14 question, Mike. I don't see any other questions in the 15 queue, so at this time I just want to -- for those of you 16 still on the line here -- oh, we did get one more 17 question in here. Bear with me, Ed. Area code (404) 760 18 your line is now open.</p> <p>19 PARTICIPANT: Hey, Ed, this is Don Wilson from 20 Brightworth. Not currently invested with you guys but 21 just trying to learn more about the strategy, but very 22 interesting. Is there a return target that you're 23 seeking or an expected return that you think the strategy 24 generates over time? I know you've talked a lot about 25 the downside risk, but are there ever scenarios where you</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 would expect to exceed that 8 percent that you for some 2 reason don't choose to mitigate that risk when you're 3 modeling it in your software?</p> <p>4 MR. WALSAK: Sure. Let me -- I always have 5 trouble with multiple part questions because my memory is 6 short, I think. So let me try to start at the beginning, 7 and let me know if I don't get it all. So -- and see, 8 I've already forgotten the beginning part of the question 9 now.</p> <p>10 PARTICIPANT: The beginning part was just do 11 you have a return target, a return expectation --</p> <p>12 MR. WALSAK: Yeah, yeah. Okay. Yeah, return 13 expectation. So that's -- I'll give you the short 14 answer. The short answer is yes. We like to keep up 15 with the S&P. We like to make money in all market 16 conditions, so we're definitely an absolute return fund. 17 You will never hear me say to you that the market was 18 down 30. Good news, we were down 25. That's just -- 19 that just doesn't make any sense to me in terms of while 20 we beat the market we only lost 25 percent of your money. 21 Good for us.</p> <p>22 That doesn't make a lot of sense to me, and it 23 doesn't make a lot of sense to me even to tell you that 24 we're down 10 percent, and the market was down 30 because 25 we still lost 10 percent of your money, and you don't</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 our typical trading horizon is anywhere between 90 and 2 150 days, and we can't help that because options expire. 3 We can't hold them for five years even if we wanted to. 4 So because of that short term -- relatively short-term 5 trading horizon it becomes a little more important how 6 the market behaves.</p> <p>7 In other words, if the market's going to end up 8 10 percent plus for the year, if that happens a little 9 less than 1 percent a month slow and steady, we're 10 probably going to be in pretty good shape. If that 11 happens -- if the market slacks for 11 months and goes up 12 10 percent in December that's not good for us.</p> <p>13 So there's a lot of variables in there, but 14 overall we would expect to match an S&P return high 15 single digits, low double digits when that's what the 16 market's doing. If the market's up 30, we're going to 17 struggle. We don't like real strong upward markets 18 because that's where we take our risk, above the market, 19 not below.</p> <p>20 Below the market when we have increased 21 volatility in declining markets, especially in markets 22 that decline for longer than a week or two, then I 23 mentioned we have volatility strategies that allow us to 24 take advantage below the market. Most importantly, our 25 goal is not to have price risk below the market. So</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 give us your money to lose money.</p> <p>2 So we're an absolute return fund. We expect to 3 make money. And Mike can replay the disclaimer about 4 forward-looking results, and all that good stuff, but I 5 can tell you we manage the fund and certainly expect to 6 make money in all market conditions. So we're an 7 absolute return fund.</p> <p>8 We expect to make at least as much money as the 9 S&P fund because of two reasons. Historically, we've 10 been able to do that despite the fact that past returns 11 do not guarantee future results. I see no reason why 12 what we've done in the past is not possible going 13 forward, and so we expect to match the market. We've 14 been able to do that in most conditions, in upward 15 conditions.</p> <p>16 And so that tells you that it is normal for our 17 strategy to be able to deliver returns in the high single 18 digits, occasionally low double digits in what I would 19 call a normal low volatility advancing market. That's 20 been our history. That's been -- that's how we structure 21 our positions to give us that opportunity. And of 22 course, as with all strategies, what the market does on 23 any given day, week, month or year will determine -- and 24 how it does it will determine how well we actually do, 25 but that's our goal. And particularly with us, you know,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 worst case scenario at least our planned worst case 2 scenario is that the market declines, and we break even. 3 If volatility stays high for a month or two, we 4 could usually make some money on that, and if it stays 5 very high for longer than a month or two, then we can 6 make a lot of money because volatility can really cause 7 options values to explode, and we generally position 8 ourselves to take advantage of that.</p> <p>9 So those are some characteristics about -- of 10 how the fund behaves. Let me ask you to repeat the back 11 half of your question if I've caught the first half 12 correctly.</p> <p>13 PARTICIPANT: Yeah. Thank you. First half was 14 great. Second half was you talked about positioning your 15 portfolio to limit to an 8 percent downside, and if your 16 model shows something more than that, you will reposition 17 to try to capture that. Do you ever choose not to do 18 that, or are there extreme scenarios where you're not 19 modeling that could -- obviously, anything can happen, 20 but are there, I guess, extreme scenarios where that 21 could still take place, more than 8 percent downside or 22 drawdown?</p> <p>23 MR. WALSAK: Sure. You can always -- you 24 correctly said you can always imagine a scenario, and we 25 run into this as we -- we talk quite frequently to risk</p>

<p>1 managers both at advisory firms and at our broker 2 partners, and you can always imagine a scenario. I mean, 3 I could say to you, "What if the market opens down 50 4 percent tomorrow?" Well, you know what? In some 5 situations, in some portfolios, actually not in ours, 6 that would cause a problem.</p> <p>7 And so you have to ask yourself, look, I'm in 8 this business to make money. Making money really means 9 managing a risk/return tradeoff. So if you want to stay 10 away from losing money in a 50 percent market decline, 11 you probably put your money in Treasuries or a shoebox. 12 So we try to manage extreme but also extreme real world 13 scenarios.</p> <p>14 So first of all, our strategy is such and we 15 position ourselves -- and we think this is attractive to 16 many investors. We position ourselves in any market 17 scenario not to have downside risk. Now, it's impossible 18 to have zero downside risk, but any downside risk we have 19 is very, very limited. And I can tell you -- and again, 20 it's real world stuff. So where do we look for real 21 world?</p> <p>22 We look for 2008 marketplace. We look at all 23 those daily swings of 8 or 10 percent or October where 24 the market was down 30 percent in a week and a half or 25 two weeks, whatever it was when LINA (phonetic) went</p>	<p>Page 37</p> <p>1 2013, 2008 volatility in dynamics, 2010 flash crash, 2011 2 U.S. debt downgrade. I would challenge you to bring 3 forward a market condition that would be real world that 4 has not occurred yet, has not occurred during that time 5 frame.</p> <p>6 So for me, you can hypothesize all day long 7 about what might happen and what it might do to the 8 strategy and how our risk controls might react to it. 9 Your best guideline is to say let me see if there's a 10 market scenario, and I bet you can go find it in an 11 actual audited performance record about how the strategy 12 would behave. And if you can think of one that hasn't 13 happened, actually send Mike Zupal (phonetic) an email so 14 I make sure I included it in my risk stresses if we 15 haven't done so already.</p> <p>16 PARTICIPANT: Thank you. One more question, if 17 I can. As far as asset size, is that any constraint for 18 you today, and is there a size of the fund at which you 19 would look at closing it to make sure you could continue 20 to do what you want to do?</p> <p>21 MS. RIOS: Sure. That's a great question, and 22 it's something we have experienced. We've been very 23 fortunate to experience tremendous growth in the fund 24 over the last two and a half years, and so we do look 25 carefully at capacity.</p>
<p>Page 38</p> <p>1 under. We look at extreme but extreme real world. If I 2 can go back to 2008 and not find a market decline of 17 3 percent in a day, for example, well, I'm not going to 4 model 17 percent in a day just because it happened once 5 in 1987.</p> <p>6 So we're taking extreme real world scenarios -- 7 we don't take downside risk anyway -- and we model those. 8 And not only that we model those across different time 9 frames. So we look and then we say, you know, is it 10 realistic to say the market's going to be down 15 percent 11 at the open tomorrow? Probably not, but 15 percent in a 12 week? That's actually very realistic, so we're going to 13 model that. But we're not going to get quite as excited 14 about a little bit of a stress if we see that, yeah, 15 market down 20 percent at the open tomorrow, portfolio 16 down 5 percent. I don't think I would react to that, but 17 market down 20 percent in a week, portfolio down 10 18 percent I would react to that.</p> <p>19 So that's to give you maybe a little bit of a 20 qualitative flavor for how we look at things. And I 21 think the other thing I would suggest is the fund has 22 been around with this -- pretty much this same strategy 23 under my management since 2005. And if you recall and 24 pull up a chart and just think about market conditions 25 since 2005, nice grinding-up trend, massive up move in</p>	<p>Page 40</p> <p>1 Naturally, it has not been a constraint for us 2 so far because we -- I am a fiduciary with shareholder 3 money. We don't chase assets at the expense of return. 4 So we look very carefully at ensuring that we can execute 5 trades and earn the type of returns and execute our 6 strategy as we have in the past. However, at the same 7 time, we're very, very cognizant of trying to anticipate 8 when that may not be the case and guard against it and do 9 what we can in advance to avoid having to close the fund.</p> <p>10 We've experimented with some things to reduce 11 our inflows, some successful, some less successful just 12 to challenge ourselves to manage the size of the fund 13 without having to do a hard close, for example. But in 14 the interim, we've been working very, very aggressively 15 on both execution on the floor to ensure we still get 16 trades that are executed at fair prices and also capacity 17 with brokers.</p> <p>18 We have right now half a dozen different 19 brokers who hold our positions, and each of them 20 restricts how much of our type of portfolio they'd like 21 to hold. So we have to continue to expand that base, and 22 we work very hard at those two parameters. But at this 23 point, we're executing. We have some different 24 techniques we use about the size of our trades and the 25 frequency of our trades to also help us make sure we get</p>

<p>1 good execution.</p> <p>2 So we work very actively on that both from</p> <p>3 making sure we're doing the right things today, making</p> <p>4 sure that we are preparing as best we can for future</p> <p>5 growth and also understanding when the day comes that we</p> <p>6 see that we cannot get bigger without affecting returns</p> <p>7 that we have a plan in place to stop those inflows right</p> <p>8 there because that's what we have to do.</p> <p>9 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. ZUPAL: Okay. Perfect. And thanks for</p> <p>11 asking that last part. I actually just got an email</p> <p>12 question asking about capacity issues as well. So thank</p> <p>13 you very much for that. All right. I don't see any</p> <p>14 other questions in the queue, Ed.</p> <p>15 Folks that are still on the line just a</p> <p>16 reminder the next call will be June 28th. So we're</p> <p>17 actually going two weeks without a call here. We'll do</p> <p>18 the call again on Tuesday, June 28, same time, 1:00</p> <p>19 Eastern, 10 a.m. Pacific. That's Tuesday, the 28th.</p> <p>20 If you do have any questions in the interim,</p> <p>21 feel free to call us here in the internal sales desk at</p> <p>22 (646) 827-2761. You could email us at</p> <p>23 info@catalystmutualfunds.com or catalystmf.com, info,</p> <p>24 i-n-f-o@catalystmf.com. Do appreciate you taking the</p> <p>25 time out of your day to listen in on the call and look</p>	<p>Page 41</p> <p>1 TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 I, David Grey, hereby certify that the foregoing</p> <p>4 transcript is a complete, true and accurate transcription</p> <p>5 of all matters contained on the recorded proceedings in</p> <p>6 the matter of:</p> <p>7 CATALYST HEDGED FUTURES STRATEGY FUND.</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10 _____</p> <p>11 Transcriber</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
<p>1 forward to speaking with you all in a couple weeks. Ed,</p> <p>2 Kimberly, thanks again and also as well for taking the</p> <p>3 time out of your day. Folks, this concludes the call.</p> <p>4 Thanks very much and talk to you soon. Bye.</p> <p>5 (End of recording.)</p> <p>6 * * * * *</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Page 42</p>